

**Northern Plains Resource Council Testimony**

**HB 293**

**by Beth Kaeding**

**January 30, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Beth Kaeding. I live in Bozeman. This testimony is submitted on behalf of Northern Plains Resource Council. We are a grassroots conservation and family agriculture organization that organizes Montana citizens to protect our water quality, family farms and ranches, and our unique quality of life.

Northern Plains supports HB 293.

While Northern Plains believes that negotiation between willing parties in a true and honest manner should be the primary focus for any project in order to avoid condemnation of private property, we know that there are many times that this does not happen.

In those cases when a private property owner is faced with eminent domain, and recognizing that his or her livelihood is often threatened (or even at stake), that landowner will often fight the condemnation. This can be a long and costly venture, tying up funds that the landowner otherwise could be reinvesting into their business. Should the private property owner win in court, it is only right that not only will his or her litigation expenses be awarded but that a fair rate of interest on those tied-up monies also be awarded.

Northern Plains urges Committee members to vote "Yes" on HB 293. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak today.

*Beth Kaeding*